

From: Andrew Schaaf
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 12:29am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the Department of Justice:

The current proposal for the Microsoft settlement does not do enough to prevent Microsoft from staying a monopoly in the computer industry.

Even after being found guilty of being an illegal monopoly, Microsoft's behavior has not changed. Regulation of their behavior, with the threat of severe criminal penalties for failure to comply, is the only remedy that will stop them.

Microsoft should be forced to release the specification to their file formats (Word, PowerPoint, etc). This would allow other companies and people to create programs that could read and write to formats that currently only Microsoft fully knows, thereby promoting competition. As a user, I am annoyed when I receive a Word attachment from someone, because I have to ask them to send it again in some "open" format such as RTF, or open it in a program that attempts to read Word files, but can't do it very well.

Please ensure that a settlement not only punishes Microsoft for their anti-competitive behavior, but also prevents FUTURE anti-competitive behavior. Microsoft will continually test their limits with authorities, and if their acts go unpunished by those in charge, they will continue to act the way they have, only this time they will push their limits even more. Microsoft did not become #1 because of their "quality software." they became #1 by intimidation and brute force.

I have read about the proposed settlement, and I am not in favor of it in its current state. Please consider this a vote against the current settlement, as well as a vote to seek a settlement that is more favorable to Microsoft's competitors.

Andrew Schaaf
New York